

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 and 22 are pending. Claims 1-19 and 22 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner for being drawn to a non-elected invention. By this Amendment, the Specification and Claim 20 are amended. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is submitted herein.

The Office Action notes the current status of the applications from which the instant application claims priority and that are referenced in the cross notes at the first paragraph of the Specification is not included. Applicants have amended the first paragraph herein to provide the current status of the application from which the instant application claims priority.

The Specification is objected to for an informality contained in the first full paragraph on page 3. Applicants have amended the Specification responsive to the objection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended the claim responsive to the rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,203,741 to Turner et al. (hereinafter "Turner"). Claim 20 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,788,577 to Kadota et al. (hereinafter "Kadota"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 20 recites a constant velocity universal joint including, among other features, roller assemblies mounted on trunnions of a tripod member, the roller assemblies including rollers to be guided along roller guideways in directions parallel to

an axis of the outer joint member, support rings for rotatably supporting the rollers, and needle rollers rotatably interposed between the rollers and support rings, the roller assemblies being capable of tilting movements with respect to the trunnions, wherein the rollers include annular grooves formed therein and in which lock rings are fitted to prevent the needle rollers from falling out of the roller assemblies.

Applicants respectfully submit that Turner and Kadota do not disclose or suggest such features.

Rather, Applicants respectfully submit Turner and Kadota disclose the support rings (roller element 28 in Turner and inner roller 3 in Kadota) are disposed between the needle rollers (32 in Turner and 7 in Kadota) and rollers (21 in Turner and 4 in Kadota). Turner and Kadota do not teach or suggest the needle rollers (32 and 7, respectively) are disposed between the rollers (21 and 4, respectively) and the support rings (28 and 3, respectively).

Moreover, Applicants respectfully note Turner and Kadota disclose the cage ring (33 in Turner) or slip-off preventative ring (8 in Kadota), which are provided to prevent the needle rollers from falling out of the roller assembly, in the trunnion (13 in Turner and 2a in Kadota). Turner and Kadota do not teach or suggest forming an annular groove in the rollers (21 and 4, respectively) within which the cage ring (33) or slip-off preventative ring (8) would be placed. Applicants respectfully submit Turner and Kadota do not provide the cage ring (33) or slip-off preventative ring (8) in a groove of the rollers (21 and 4, respectively) because to do so would not prevent the needle rollers from falling out given the remote location of the needle rollers relative to the rollers which would have such rings.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, a reference must teach, i.e., identically describe, each feature of a rejection claim. As explained above, Turner and Kadota fail to teach or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 20. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit Claim 20 is not anticipated by, or rendered obvious in view of, Turner and/or Kadota. As such, Applicants respectfully submit Claim 20 should be deemed allowable and the rejections withdrawn.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, allowance of Claim 20, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 100725-00120.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time